

Amendments to the Claims:

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a manipulation of a programmable memory device of a digital controller for a motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

storing in the programmable memory device data and control programs for an operation of the digital controller and for a control/regulation of functions of the motor vehicle;

storing information regarding a programing/reprograming operation in a separate memory area of the programmable memory device where only reading and programing are possible, the step of storing information regarding the programming/reprogramming operation being performed in conjunction with each programing/reprograming operation of the programmable memory device; and

reading out and comparing a content of the separate memory area with another set of information in order to detect a manipulation, wherein a remaining memory area of the programmable memory device is capable of being erased.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

storing in the separate memory area information regarding a cumulative number of programing/reprograming operations of the programmable memory device.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

storing in the separate memory area the information regarding the programing/reprograming operation with each erase operation of the programmable memory device.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein:

the information regarding the programming/reprogramming is stored in the separate memory area by setting bits.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

storing the information regarding the programming/reprogramming in a one-time-

programmable region of the programmable memory device, the programmable memory device being arranged as a flash memory.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

storing in the separate memory area information from an external programming unit for programming/reprogramming a flash memory.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

storing in the separate memory area information from an arrangement of the digital controller for storing the information regarding the programming/reprogramming operation.

8. (Currently Amended) An external programming unit for at least one of programming and reprogramming a flash memory of a digital controller for a motor vehicle, the flash memory including a programmable memory device, the external programming unit comprising:

an arrangement for storing in the flash memory data and control programs for an operation of the digital controller and for a control/regulation of functions of the motor vehicle;

an arrangement for storing information regarding a programming/reprogramming operation in a separate memory area of the programmable memory device where only reading and programming are possible, the storing of the information regarding the programming/reprogramming operation occurring in conjunction with each programming/reprogramming operation of the programmable memory device;

an arrangement for reading out and comparing a content of the separate memory area with another set of information in order to detect a manipulation; and

an arrangement for storing in the separate memory area information from an external programming unit for programming/reprogramming the flash memory, wherein a remaining memory area of the programmable memory device is capable of being erased.

9. (Currently Amended) A digital controller for a motor vehicle, comprising:

a programmable memory device for storing data and control programs for an operation of the digital controller and for a control/regulation of functions of the motor vehicle;

an arrangement for storing information regarding a programming/reprogramming operation in a separate memory area of the programmable memory device where only reading

and programing are possible, the storing of the information regarding the programming/reprogramming operation occurring in conjunction with each programing/reprograming operation of the programable memory device;

an arrangement for reading out and comparing a content of the separate memory area with another set of information in order to detect a manipulation; and

an arrangement for storing in the separate memory area information from an arrangement of the digital controller for storing the information regarding the programing/reprograming operation, wherein a remaining memory area of the programmable memory device is capable of being erased.